

these attacks that came under my observation consisted only of a few jabs of the beak on any part of the body, and none ended seriously." Two half-tone plates give four illustrations of scenes in gull life.—J. A. A.

Game Laws for 1906.¹—This is the usual annual summary of the game laws revised and brought down to date, so as to include not only all the new legislation, but a summary of the more important bills which were considered and failed to pass. It is a condensed statement of the game laws of the United States and Canada, which govern seasons, shipment, sale, licenses, and other limitations, and is of the greatest interest and use to both game protectors and sportsmen, as well as to shippers and dealers in game. The legislation during 1906 was especially important in the Canadian Provinces, five of which passed new game laws, Alberta passing a law prohibiting spring shooting of water fowl. "The passage of the Mississippi statute marks the completion of a chain of nonexport laws in every State of the Union and provision for the appointment of special officers to enforce the game laws in every State except Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas." Several new preserves were established by Congress, and other preserves were made in the Provinces of Alberta and Quebec. Thus is progress made from year to year in the preservation of game almost throughout the continent.—J. A. A.

Forbush's 'Useful Birds and their Protection.'—In this volume² of over 450 pages, with numerous illustrations, we have set before us, by authorization of the Legislature of Massachusetts, one of the most important works yet published relating to the economic relations and protection of birds. By predilection, temperament, opportunities, and familiarity with his subject, the author is well fitted to deal fairly and exhaustively with the important topic here considered—the food relations of birds to agriculture, and hence the utility of birds to man. An introduction of 22 pages deals in a general way with 'The Utility of Birds in Nature,' while the succeeding twelve chapters treat of different phases of the general subject, and with the enemies of birds, and means for their protection. The chapter headings may here be cited as indicating the scope and general character of the work, as follows: 1. The Value of Birds

¹ Game Laws for 1906. A Summary of the provisions relating to seasons, shipment, sale, and licenses. By T. S. Palmer and R. W. Williams, Jr., Assistants, Biological Survey. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers' Bulletin No. 265, 8vo, pp. 54, with maps and tables. Washington Government Printing Office, 1906.

² Useful Birds and their Protection. Containing Brief Descriptions of the more common and useful Species of Massachusetts, with Accounts of their Food Habits, and a Chapter on the Means of Attracting and Protecting Birds. By Edward Howe Forbush, Ornithologist to the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. Illustrated by the Author, C. Allan Lyford, Chester A. Reed, and others. Published under Direction of The Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, by authority of the Legislature.—No date. 8vo, pp. i-xx, 1-437, with 171 text figures, colored frontispiece, and 56 half-tone plates. (Received March 18, 1907.)

to Man; II. The Utility of Birds in Woodlands; III. Birds as Destroyers of Hairy Caterpillars and Plant Lice; IV. The Economic Service of Birds in the Orchard; V. Song Birds of Orchard and Woodland; VI. Songless Birds of Orchard and Woodland; VII. The Utility of Birds in Field and Garden; VIII. Birds of Field and Garden; IX. Birds of the Air; X. Birds of Marsh and Waterside; XI. Checks upon the Increase of Useful Birds; XII. The Protection of Birds.

Chapters I to IV treat of the loss due to insect ravages; the increase and multiplicity of these pests, and their destruction by birds; their increase with the decrease of birds, the utility of birds in the protection of forests, and their "æsthetic, sentimental, and educational value." Chapters V to X take up the various useful birds specifically, giving a short description of each as a means for their identification, and setting forth the rôle each plays in the scheme of nature. In Chapter XI are detailed the various checks upon the increase of birds, including their natural enemies and their destruction by man and the bird enemies introduced by him, as the domestic cat and the House Sparrow. Chapter XII, on the protection of birds, gives instruction as to methods of attracting birds to take up their abodes in cultivated grounds and about our houses, for supplying them with food and nesting facilities, and how to protect crops from such otherwise useful birds as sometimes levy toll on our fruit or grain. There is also something about the artificial propagation of game birds, about the associations organized for the protection of birds, with the names and addresses of their principal officers, and also a bibliography of papers on ornithology published by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture from 1861 to date. The text illustrations relate mainly to insect pests (many of which are figured), to their ravages, and to particular species of birds which prey upon destructive insects. The frontispiece is a colored plate, by Fuytes, of the Wood Duck — a species rapidly approaching extinction; the half-tone plates, largely from photographs, illustrate the destructiveness of insects to forests, insect-feeding birds, bird houses and nesting boxes, and other pertinent subjects. Many of these are from published sources, duly acknowledged, but a large number appear here for the first time.

Besides the author's many years of personal field experience in connection with the Gypsy Moth Commission, and in other relations, he has drawn material from the best published sources, as the reports of investigations under the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in relation both to the destructive work of insects upon crops and forests and the utility of birds as insect destroyers, and has utilized the hitherto unpublished reports of two of his field assistants, thus rendering the work an important contribution of new matter to the subject treated. It remains to add that the State Board of Agriculture and the State Legislature of Massachusetts have shown commendable foresight and liberality in authorizing the publication and distribution of an edition of 5000 copies of this valuable exposition of the relation of birds to man's economic interests.— J. A. A.